

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration of the application in view of this Amendment.

New Independent Claim 25

Claim 25, as amended, recites crosslinking a polymer and then adapting its conformation to a template. This is limited to where the adapting step increases the interaction enthalpy between the conformation and the template compound by more than 0.1 kcal/mole. Determination of the claimed "interaction enthalpy" is well known in the field as being determined by multiplying R (gas constant) times the slope of the graph of natural log of equilibrium constant vs. 1/temperature. The terms "a polymer" and "a template" in claim 25 clearly include situations having multiple polymers and multiple templates, as illustrated through claim differentiation from dependent claim 38.

Claim 25 is not disclosed or suggested in the cited references to Anseth and Lee. First, Anseth lacks the claimed step of crosslinking a polymer. Anseth instead crosslinks "monomers or oligomers" (col. 3, lines 13-15). Secondly, the references lack the claimed template. Anseth's MCPH (cited in the Office Action) is not a template but a crosslinkable monomer. Thirdly, neither reference discloses the claimed range of enthalpy. Therefore, claim 25 is patentable over the cited prior art.

Independent Claim 39

Claim 39 recites the steps of (i) adapting the conformation of a polymer to a template, (ii) crosslinking the polymer, and then (iii) exposing the polymer to the template to preferentially attract and adhere the template to the polymer.

This is not suggested in the references. Therefore, claim 39 is patentable over the prior art.

Dependent Claims 26-38 and 39-43

Claims 26-38 and 39-43 all depend from base claims explained above to be patentable over the prior art. The limitations that the dependent claims add to the base claims distinguish them further from the prior art. Therefore, the dependent claims also are patentable.

The application should now be in condition for allowance, and allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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